

# **LIHEAP ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2011 SITE INFORMATION**

## ***Winnebago and Boone County Residents Only***

The City of Rockford Human Services Dept., along with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Energy Assistance, announces the beginning of winter heating assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The roll out dates for the program are as follows:

**Beginning Sept. 1 Seniors and Disabled**

**Beginning Oct. 1 Disconnected households & those with children under 5 years of age**

**Beginning Nov. 1 General public/households not eligible for priority enrollment**

A single person household can qualify with a monthly income of up to \$1,361; a two-person household up to \$1,839; and a family of four can earn up to \$2,794. Benefits are paid directly to utilities on behalf of eligible households. The exception is households whose heating costs are included in their rent.

**PLEASE NOTE:** For the first time, some LIHEAP clients will have the option of choosing between the traditional Direct Vendor Payment (DVP) plan or the new Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP). The PIPP is available to eligible LIHEAP clients who are customers of ComEd and Nicor Gas. Under PIPP, the eligible client will pay a percentage of their income, receive a monthly benefit towards their utility bill, and receive a reduction in overdue payments for every on-time payment they make by the bill due date. The traditional DVP plan is a one-time payment.

Clients must bring all required documentation when applying for assistance including:

- State photo ID, i.e. Driver's License or Illinois State ID
- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period prior to the application date.
- A copy of current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days (if they pay for their energy directly).
- A copy of a rental agreement, lease or rent receipt (if they are renting).
- Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members.
- Proof that their household received TANF or other benefits, such as Medical Eligibility or SNAP, if receiving assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services.